

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 153845
ORIGIN EB-08

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, NO

SUBJECT: BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS AFFECTING RETROFIT OF
INERT GAS SYSTEMS.

REF: HOPE-TAYLOR TELECON, JUNE 16

1. CURRENT REQUIREMENTS FOR USE OF U.S. EQUIPMENT WHICH
COULD AFFECT RETROFITTING WITH INERT GAS SYSTEMS (IGS)
CAN BE SUMMARIZED GENERALLY AS FOLLOWS:

A. FOREIGN FLAG VESSELS: COULD BE RETROFITTED IN U.S. WITH
IGS EQUIPMENT OF ANY MANUFACTURE.

B. U.S.-FLAG VESSELS NOT RECEIVING OPERATING DIFFERENTIAL
SUBSIDY (ODS): ONLY RESTRICTION AFFECTING THIS CATEGORY
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PAGE 02 STATE 153845

OF VESSELS (WHICH WOULD INCLUDE MOST US-FLAG TANKERS) IS
REQUIREMENT THAT IN ORDER TO QUALIFY AS US-BUILT OR RE-
BUILT (A PREREQUISITE FOR PARTICIPATION IN U.S. COASTWISE
TRADE) ALL PORTIONS OF A VESSEL OTHER THAN HULL AND SUPER-
STRUCTURE MUST CONSIST OF MINIMUM OF 50 PERCENT U.S.-
MANUFACTURED PARTS.

C. U.S.-FLAG VESSELS RECEIVING ODS FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR: VESSELS IN THIS CATEGORY MUST USE US-MADE EQUIPMENT,

SO LONG AS THERE IS US MANUFACTURER WHICH PRODUCES THE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT. THERE ARE FEW U.S.-FLAG TANKERS IN THIS CATEGORY.

2. IN VIEW OF EXTENSIVE U.S. LEGISLATION IN THIS AREA, POTENTIAL INVESTOR SHOULD NOT TAKE ABOVE INFORMATION AS DETERMINATIVE AND WOULD PROBABLY BE WELL ADVISED TO CONSULT PRIVATE U.S. COUNSEL.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO ADVISE POTENTIAL INVESTOR THAT MERCHANT MARINE SUBCOMMITTEE OF HOUSE MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE HAS HELD HEARINGS ON BILL (H.R. 8204) WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THAT IN ORDER TO QUALIFY AS US-BUILT OR REBUILT FOR COASTWISE TRADE, PORTION OF US-MADE PARTS AND EQUIPMENT MUST BE 100 PERCENT "AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE." ADMINISTRATION AGENCIES HAVE OPPOSED THIS BILL, AND ITS PROSPECTS FOR PASSAGE ARE NOT NOW CONSIDERED GOOD. HOWEVER, ANY POTENTIAL INVESTOR IN THIS AREA SHOULD WATCH PROGRESS OF THIS LEGISLATION. NEWSOM

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